

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.317]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Duke Diggs Jefferson City Photograph Collection

*Abstract:* Photographs of Duke Diggs and his businesses in Jefferson City: African-American history.

*Extent:* 7 images

*Physical Description:* Photographs; Negatives

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* TIF

*Access Restrictions:* None

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [description of item], [date]; *Duke Diggs Jefferson City Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.317; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Loaned for copying; #2004-0116

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 06/26/2017. Updated by EW on 03/24/2021 and 03/07/2022.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Notable Jefferson City resident Duke Diggs (1872-1943) was well known in town for being a respectable businessman. He began working as a cook but soon in the late 1890s he opened his own business as a “transporter” moving furniture and other goods for the public with his horses and wagons. His moving company flourished and he bought a house on Lafayette Street around 1918. Diggs married Estella Branham on September 20, 1893. The couple had no children.

In 1918-1920, Diggs served as the Grand Secretary of the United Brothers of Friendship and the Sisters of the Mysterious Ten. He was active in politics and would occasionally show up at the General Assembly advocating for African American rights and for Lincoln University, the historically Black public university in Jefferson City.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS064 David Denman Photograph Collection  
MS272 Ehrhardt Photograph Collection  
MS297 Mark Schreiber Photograph Collection  
MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection  
MS315 Lynn Shaffer Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
MS329 Alice Fast Jefferson City Postcard Collection  
MS340 George Grazier Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
MS349 Otto Kroeger Photograph Collection  
MS360 Dr. Arnold G. Parks Jefferson City Postcard Collection  
MS369 Bob Priddy Collection  
MS390 Ann Noe Collection  
MS394 Priesmeyer Shoe Factory Photograph Collection  
MS399 Bill Fannin Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
MS400 Gary Kremer Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
MS402 Jefferson City Circus Photograph Collection  
MS421 Henry Gensky Photograph Collection  
MS426 Jefferson City News Tribune Photograph  
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Collection  
MS463 Jefferson City Photographs by Kendal Mertens  
MS467 Ott Construction Company Photograph Collection  
MS479 Joe Kleene Photograph Collection  
MS481 Martha Rutledge Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
MS483 Mary Wilhite Jefferson City Photograph Collection  
RG104 Department of Health and Senior Services Department of Vital Statistics, Missouri Death Certificates, certificate no. 28027, dod 08/08/1943, Cole County.  
[http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1943/1943\\_00028019.PDF](http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1943/1943_00028019.PDF)  
RG110 Department of Natural Resources National Register of Historic Places

### Additional External Resources

The Duke Diggs Site in Jefferson City's "Foot" as evaluated by the Missouri Department of Transportation: <http://www.modot.org/ehp/sites/DukeDiggsSite.htm>.

## PHOTOGRAPHS, c1890-1930s

*Arrangement:* None

### Scope and Content

The seven photographs in this collection are copies made from originals loaned to the Archives. They feature African American Jefferson City resident Duke Diggs, his family, his business and his church. This series consists of 5"x7" copy prints with 4"x5" copy negatives. The negatives have been digitized and are on Manuscript DVD #3 in the Reference Room. A few of the images also appear on the Archives Flickr page.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	103	67	Duke Diggs Moving Company with their wagons and horse teams, located behind Diggs's home at 526 Lafayette St.	c1920
	103	68	The home of Duke Diggs, 526 Lafayette St., built in 1918	c1920
	103	69	The Second Baptist Church at the corner of Monroe and Miller Streets	c1920
	103	70	The congregation of the Second Baptist Church (corner of Monroe and Miller Streets)	c1920
	103	71	Duke Diggs (back row, second from right) with his five brothers William, Nathaniel, Arthur, Marion, and John and his father Duke Diggs, Sr. Probably taken in Cooper County.	c1895
	103	72	Portrait of Duke Diggs	1930s
	103	73	Portrait of Estella (Branham) Diggs (Duke's wife)	1890-1900?